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# PR 610 Servant as Proclaimer

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## ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

PR 610

Fall 2002

Wednesday and Friday 9:30AM – 10:45AM

David L. Rambo, Professor

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This beginning course in preaching will examine the context of preaching and present a methodology for expository, topical and narrative preaching. In addition to lectures and material from the required texts, it will examine the preaching via videotapes of nine (9) preachers of ten (10) who were recognized in 1996 by a Baylor University survey to be the best contemporary preachers in the English-speaking world. The purpose of these sermons is to observe critically as these preachers deliver their sermon(s), to note specifically what makes them excellent, to incorporate from their messages helpful guidance for one's preaching and to deliver four (4) sermons that reflect what they have learned. Additionally, students will critically evaluate a recognized preacher in the area by a personal visit or two chapel services with special attention to the sermon. Other taped sermons will be made available for out-of-class listening.

### RATIONALE

This course will introduce three (3) major kinds of preaching through lectures and textbook reading. It is also committed to the belief that preaching is best learned through practice under the evaluation of professor and fellow students.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce the ingredients of narrative, topical and expository preaching.
2. To provide guidance in the preparation and delivery of sermons.
3. To increase awareness of the elements of good preaching.
4. To expose students to the world's best English-speaking preachers and to inspire them to set high standards for their preaching.
5. To introduce preaching from various traditions for broader understanding and appreciation.
6. To incorporate student's study of the original languages and hermeneutics to insure that sermons are faithful to the text.
7. To experience the life of a church in the Lexington area and to hear at least one (1) preacher of excellence in his setting or two chapel messages this semester.
8. To give opportunity for students to preach in class, incorporating what they have learned and to gain evaluation of their sermons.

COURSE REQUIRED READING followed by RECOMMENDED READING:

Henderson, David W. CULTURE SHIFT. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, Inc. 1998

Lowry, Eugene, THE HOMILETICAL PLOT. Atlanta, GA: John Knox Press, 1980.

Robinson, Haddon. BIBLICAL PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

Webb, Joseph M. PREACHING WITHOUT NOTES. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 2001.

Note: Reading of the above is to be completed by Oct 9. A one-page summary will be submitted on the date the books will be discussed by those not reporting.

RECOMMENDED READING

Chapell, Bryan. CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Inc., 1994.

Craddock, Fred. PREACHING. Nashville: Abingdon, 1985.

Sine, Tom. MUSTARD SEED VS. MCWORLD. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

Troege, Thomas H. IMAGINING A SERMON. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1990.

Willhite, Keith and Gibson, Scott, Ed. THE BIG IDEA OF BIBLICAL PREACHING. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Three-credit course

- A. Attendance at all classes
- B. Reading of four(4) texts by October 9 with a 1 – 2 page evaluation of each.
- C. One page description of person, place, and thing for September 25
- D. Four oral sermons delivered in class. A manuscript of the message is due at the time of sermon presentation.
  - 1. Twelve to fourteen minute narrative message from a Biblical story.
  - 2. Twelve to fifteen minute topical message (visual support recommended).
  - 3. Twelve to fifteen minute expository message (visual support recommended).
  - 4. Twelve to fifteen minute special occasion message.
  - 5. Thirty minute interview with professor, December 9 - 13.

6. Sermon Presentations:

	<u>Group One</u>	<u>Group Two</u>	<u>Group Three</u>
Narrative	October 11	October 16	October 18
Topical	October 25	October 23	October 30
Expository	November 13	November 8	November 6
Special Occ.	December 6	November 22	December 4

(Also, note group date responsibility for video showing.)

7. Attend Southland Christian Church and give a one to two page critique of the service and sermon by Pastor Mike Breau or evaluate two seminary chapels and sermons.

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 4

- A. Getting acquainted. Review of syllabus
- B. Completing questionnaire about personal goals for preaching
- C. My journey in preaching

September 6

Lecture: Vital Components of Preaching

September 11

Presentation of Robinson's Biblical Preaching by Group One. Present the main ideas of the book followed by critique and discussion.

September 13

- A. Group One will conclude discussion of Robinson.
- B. Robinson sermon illustrating a narrative sermon.

September 18

Group Two will review Henderson's Culture Shift followed by critique and discussion.

September 20

- A. Group Two will present and lead discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's modified expository sermon. Comment on word descriptions.
- B. Evaluation of Taylor's sermon. What warrants her selection as "one of the best preachers in the English-speaking world"?
- C. Prepare a one-page description of a person, place or event to be presented in the March 5 class and submitted to the professor.

September 25

- A. Presentation of one-page descriptions.
- B. Lecture: The Case for a Narrative Sermon.

September 27

- A. Introduction and evaluation of topical sermon.
- B. Group Three will present William Willimon's topical sermon with discussion following.

October 2 Evangelistic Preaching

- A. Group Three will present sermon by Billy Graham with evaluation.
- B. Lecture: Sanctuary Evangelism

October 4

- A. Group One will present Gardner Taylor's topical sermon with discussion following.
- B. Evaluation of Taylor's sermon with recognition of the gift of the African-American pulpit to the art of preaching.

October 9

- A. Group Two will present John Stott's Expository Sermon with evaluation.
- B. Kinds of expository sermons.
- C. Overcoming boredom in expository sermons.

NOTE: All required reading must be completed by this date.

## TRANSITION TO STUDENT PREACHING

### NARRATIVE SERMONS

October 11

Group One will present a 12 minute narrative sermon from a biblical story.  
Incorporate insights from Robinson's sermon.

Sermon evaluations by students/professor.

October 16

Group Two will present a 12 minute narrative sermon from a biblical story.  
Incorporate insights from Robinson's sermon.

October 18

Group Three will present a 12 minute narrative sermon.

Sermon evaluations by students/professor.

### TOPICAL SERMONS

October 23

Group Two will present a 12 – 14 minute topical sermon from a biblical story  
followed by evaluation.

October 25

Group One will present a 12 minute topical sermon followed by evaluation.

October 30

Group Three will present a 12 minute topical sermon followed by evaluation

November 1

The class will see and evaluate messages from the Great Preacher series by Tom Long (preaching from a difficult text), and Fred Craddock.

## EXPOSITORY SERMONS

November 6

Group Three will present their 12-15 minute expository sermons followed by student/professor evaluation.

November 8

Group Two will present their 12-15 minute expository sermons followed by student/professor evaluation.

November 13

Group One will preach a expository sermon followed by evaluation.

November 15

Group Three will review Lowry's Homiletical Plot, noting the main points, evaluation and leading of discussion.

November 20

Group One (or student #7) will lead discussion on Webb's Preaching Without Notes.

## SERMONS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

NOTE: For these sermons, students are urged to use special supports (Powerpoint, film clips, outlines, visual objects)

November 22

Group Two will preach sermons for special occasions followed by evaluation.

November 25 – 29 Reading Week

December 4

Group Three will preach a 15 minute sermon for a special occasions followed by evaluation.

December 6

Group One will present a 15 minute sermon for special occasions followed by evaluation.

December 9 - 13

Each student will meet for 30 minutes during the week with the professor for personal evaluation and guidance. Each student is responsible for scheduling this meeting in Beeson 140.

#### GRADING

70% for four (4) sermons  
15% reading and reports  
10% class participation/church or chapel visit  
5% one page description